

MULTI
AWARD
WINNING!

SCIENCE + ANIMALS + PUZZLES + PEOPLE + APPS + PHOTOS + BOOKS + SPORTS + GRAVY WRESTLING

THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL NEWS

Hispanic heritage celebrated
p5



SPORTS

Big wins in college football
p18



HOW TO

Fun recipe for pasta salad
p25



September 29, 2023 • Vol. 4, Issue 180 • \$5.99

Making sense of the world



Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOS
KIDS

Protecting CHIMPS

Sanctuary sets out to keep animals
safe in extreme weather p10

DID YOU KNOW?

- Chimp Haven is located in Keithville, Louisiana.
- About 300 chimpanzees live there in 30 family groups.
- Practice drills were designed to protect them during storms.





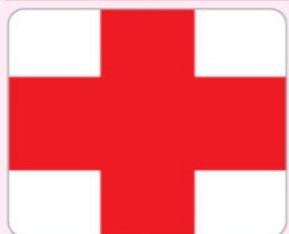
This week's big news



DID YOU KNOW?
Libya has a population of about 7.2 million people and covers nearly 680,000 square miles.

Damage in Derna after the flood

How to help



If you and your family would like to help people affected by the flooding, there are many nonprofits working on their behalf. UNICEF is providing vital medical supplies for people, including children. The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will help evacuate families and provide shelter, food, and water.

Massive flooding strikes Libya

An intense storm caused devastating floods in Libya on September 10. As rescue workers rushed to help the North African nation, experts said it was the deadliest storm in Africa since 1900.

What happened?

The disaster began with Storm Daniel, which formed over the Mediterranean Sea in the days before the flood. This storm, called a "medicane," was like a hurricane, with heavy rains and high winds. Daniel unleashed record-breaking rainfall in Greece, Turkey, and Bulgaria, then moved to Libya's coast. There, rain overwhelmed two dams near the city of Derna. (A dam is a structure built across a waterway to control the flow of water.) The dams could not contain all the rain and collapsed, sending a massive flood across the city of about 100,000 people.

What was the damage?

The flood washed away entire neighborhoods, uprooted trees, and swept houses and cars into the sea.

When *The Week Junior* went to press, more than 11,470 people were known to have died. Another 10,100 were missing. The United Nations (UN, a group of 193 nations working together) said more than 900,000 people were affected,

including more than 40,000 people who were displaced from their homes. At least 891 buildings were destroyed in Derna, and many roads and bridges were damaged. Many areas did not have power, internet, running water, or functioning hospitals. Experts said a humanitarian crisis was looming, with hundreds of thousands of people at risk of dehydration, malnutrition, and illness as a result of the conditions. "This is a disaster of epic proportions," said a Libyan official at the World Health Organization.

Why was the damage so extensive?

Several factors contributed to the devastation. One was the condition of the dams.

Experts said they had received little maintenance since they were built in the late 1970s and had been cracked and at risk of failing for years. In 2022, an engineer said the situation was urgent and dangerous. Conflict within Libya was also a factor. A civil war (two groups fighting within the same country) that began in 2011 left the nation without a functioning central government. Instead, Libya has two competing governments. The political situation has weakened the nation's disaster management systems, which led to poor preparation for the

storm and a lack of clear instructions to residents as it approached. In addition, climate change had dried up the land, which made it less able to soak up rainfall. Persistent heavy rains in recent years had also stripped the hillsides above the dams of soil that absorbed water. That caused dangerous amounts of water to back up behind the dams.

How are people being helped?

The Libyan governments were working together on rescue efforts, although some people said the efforts were disorganized. Damaged roads and bridges were making it difficult for crews to reach the hardest-hit areas. International aid groups, including the Red Crescent emergency service, sent teams to distribute food, water, tents, and medical supplies. Nations including Egypt, Algeria, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates sent medical teams, while the US, the UK, France, Germany, and other nations offered financial support.

What will happen next?

On September 18, hundreds of people took part in a protest in Derna, calling for Libyan leaders who failed to prevent the tragedy to step down. Leaders said they would investigate the causes of the dam failures. Meanwhile, other nations and aid organizations will continue to send supplies, funds, and workers to help.



A map shows the flood zone.



Stolen van Gogh painting returned

A painting by the famous artist Vincent van Gogh that was stolen in 2020 was returned on September 11. The artwork, *The Parsonage Garden at Nuenen in Spring*, was taken from a temporary exhibit at the Singer Laren museum in the Netherlands. It was returned in a bag from the furniture store Ikea to Arthur Brand, an art detective working with Dutch police to recover it.

The people responsible for the theft were caught in 2021, but the painting had not been recovered. Brand recently received a message from someone saying they had possession of it. The tipster asked to remain anonymous and dropped off the painting at Brand's home.

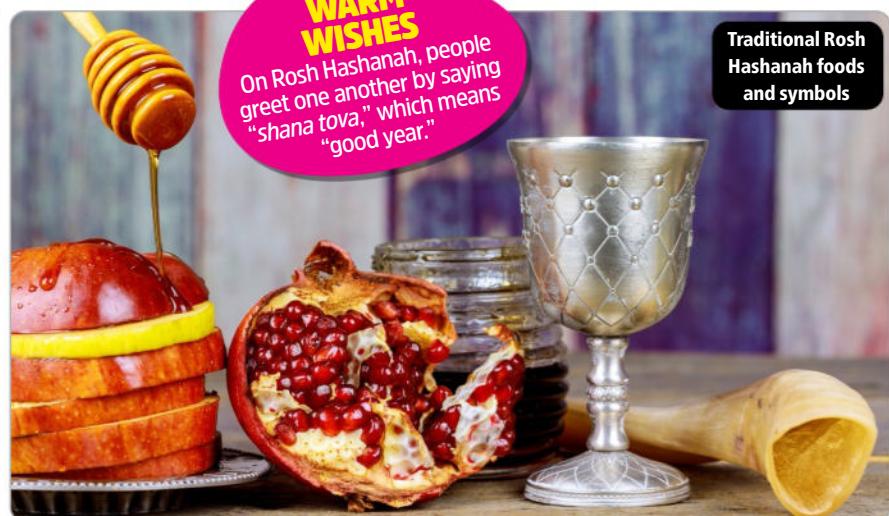
The masterpiece, which was painted in 1884 and is estimated to be worth between \$3.2 million and \$6.4 million, was slightly damaged but can be restored. It will be returned to its permanent home at the Groninger Museum in the Netherlands. "A great day for all van Gogh lovers worldwide," Brand posted on social media.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

BABY DRAGONS

Six Komodo dragons hatched at ZooTampa in Florida. It was the first time the endangered species has been born there. The three females and three males are "a big win for conservation," a zoo staff member said.



Jewish holidays observed

On September 15, Jewish people around the world began celebrating the High Holidays. In Judaism, this is a time of self-reflection, prayer, and atonement (when someone makes up for a negative thing they have done). It begins with Rosh Hashanah, the start of the Jewish New Year, which took place from September 15–17, and ends with Yom Kippur on September 24–25.

In Judaism, Rosh Hashanah is when God considers people's behavior and records their deeds in the Book of Life. It's the start of 10 days of reflection, when Jewish people weigh their actions of the past year and seek forgiveness for things they've done wrong or people they've offended.

Jewish people gather in synagogues (places of worship) for prayer and the blowing of the

shofar, an instrument made from a ram's horn. Families eat traditional foods like challah bread, pomegranates, and apples with honey to symbolize a sweet new year. On September 12, US Vice President Kamala Harris and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff hosted a Rosh Hashanah reception in Washington, DC.

The Book of Life is sealed again on Yom Kippur, which is also called the Day of Atonement. It is the holiest day of the year, and many Jews pray and fast (do not eat or drink) for 25 hours.

The High Holidays are a time to "come together as a community, where we take time to think about ourselves as individuals but also think about the ways that we can help others," Rabbi Rob Gleisser of Penn State University told *USA Today*.

A MUSICAL REUNION

For the first time in 22 years, all five members of the band *NSYNC have reunited to record a song. The track, "Better Place," will be featured in the upcoming movie *Trolls Band Together*, which is about five trolls in a band. *NSYNC member Justin Timberlake voices the character Branch in the *Trolls* films.





DID YOU KNOW?

The first flu vaccine was developed at the University of Michigan and approved in 1945.



A vial of a Covid-19 vaccine

News from the FDA



The FDA has ruled that the ingredient phenylephrine, found in many popular cold medicines, does not clear a stuffy nose or ease other symptoms. Phenylephrine is not dangerous to use, the FDA said, but it is not effective, and people are advised to avoid taking medications that contain it.

Nation focuses on illness prevention

To keep people healthy this fall and winter, public health officials are urging Americans to get two new vaccines (medicines injected into a person to prevent an illness). The shots offer updated forms of protection against two viruses: Covid-19 and the flu.

What happened?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA, the US agency that monitors the safety of food and medicine) approved two updated Covid-19 vaccines on September 12. The two vaccines, produced by Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech, are formulated to protect against the virus's newest variants. (Viruses change as they spread, and new versions are called variants.) A new flu shot created to fight off this year's flu variant has also

been made available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, the US health protection agency) recommends that everyone ages 6 months and older get either of the two Covid vaccines and the flu vaccine.

Why is this important?

Research shows that these vaccines help people avoid infections, reduce symptoms if they do get sick, and prevent the viruses from spreading. "It's no fun to miss school or work, and being vaccinated is likely to make whatever illness you get less severe," Dr. Preeti Malani, a professor of medicine at the University of Michigan, told NPR. In late summer, the number of people hospitalized with a Covid infection increased seven weeks in a row, reaching 17,418 near the

end of August. With the new vaccines, officials hope to avoid a similar surge this fall and winter.

How will the vaccines be administered?

People can get the shots at a pharmacy or their doctor's office. Officials said receiving both vaccines at the same time is safe and effective, or people can get them at separate visits. The most common side effects of getting a vaccine are soreness and swelling at the injection site. Other possible side effects are a headache, chills, and fever.

What will happen next?

The vaccines will be distributed throughout the fall and winter. People who have had Covid recently should wait three months after testing positive for the virus to get the vaccine.



WORD OF THE WEEK

DRAGON

Before it came to describe a mythical fire-breathing monster, a "dragon" was a large snake, such as a python. The word comes from the Greek *drakōn*, meaning "serpent." The Komodo dragon, which inhabits the Indonesian island of Komodo, is actually a very large lizard, and its tail is as long as its body.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

September 29, 1789

US establishes permanent army

On September 29, 1789, the US established a permanent army. President George Washington said he was "particularly anxious" that an army be established under the nation's new Constitution. At that time, the Army had about 800 members. Today, it has more than 450,000 members, plus about one million others who serve in the Marines, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard.



A painting of some original members of the US Army



Historic strike by auto workers

For the first time, members of the United Auto Workers union have gone on strike (stopped working) against three major US car companies—Ford, General Motors, and Stellantis—at the same time. Nearly 13,000 workers in three factories walked off their jobs on September 15 to protest low pay. The union said its members deserve higher pay during a time of record profits. The automakers said they could only afford to offer smaller wage increases.



Longtime politician to retire

Mitt Romney, a Republican US senator from Utah, announced that he will not run for reelection in 2024 and will retire when his term ends in January 2025. Romney, age 76, was elected to the Senate (one half of Congress) in 2018. He was also the Republican nominee for President in 2012, losing to Democrat Barack Obama, and the governor of Massachusetts from 2003 to 2007.



Top toy finalists are announced

From thousands of nominations, the National Toy Hall of Fame in Rochester, New York, has named 12 toys as finalists for inclusion in its all-time top toy list. The finalists (shown above) include the Connect Four and Battleship games, Nerf toys, the Ken doll, baseball cards, and slime. The list was "stronger than ever," the museum said. The Hall of Fame selections will be announced on November 9.



People of Hispanic heritage make up about 19% of the US population.

WOW!
Congress passed a law in 2020 to establish the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Latino in Washington, DC, and planning is underway.

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrated

National Hispanic Heritage Month is being celebrated throughout the US from September 15 to October 15. It is meant to honor the history and culture of Hispanic Americans and their contributions to American society. The theme of this year's month is "Todos Somos, Somos Uno: We Are All, We Are One."

The term Hispanic refers to anyone who comes from or is descended from people who came from Spanish-speaking countries. The US Census Bureau estimates that there are 63.7 million Hispanic people living in the US.

Official recognition of Hispanic heritage began in 1968, when Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) declared the week of September 15 to be Hispanic Heritage Week. In 1988, Congress expanded the week to a full month.

September 15 is a significant day in Latin American history, as five Central American



New postage stamps mark Hispanic Heritage Month.

countries—Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica—celebrate their independence days on that date. The independence days of Mexico, Chile, and Belize also fall within National Hispanic Heritage Month.

On September 15 and 16, many cities kicked off the month with special events. In Paterson,

New Jersey, a mariachi band played as a Mexican flag was raised above city hall. The city of Pasadena, California, hosted its 25th Latino Heritage Parade.

The National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, is hosting the *Fotos y Recuerdos* Festival with publisher *Lil' Libros* on September 23. Activities will include dancing and book

signings. The US Postal Service is celebrating with the release of four new stamps featuring piñatas.

At Walt Disney World in Florida, two characters from the film *Encanto*, about a family from Colombia, will make their live-action debut and greet guests on the park's grounds.

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Football practice delayed due to bear on field" *UPI*





Around the world



Barry

Paris, France

Dinosaur skeleton for sale

A 150-million-year-old skeleton of a camptosaurus will be put up for auction (sale where the highest bidder wins) in Paris next month. The dinosaur's remains were found in Wyoming in the 1990s in what was called "extremely well-preserved" condition. Named Barry after the paleontologist (scientist who studies fossils) who restored the skeleton, the specimen is 6.9 feet tall, 16.4 feet long, and expected to sell for up to \$1.2 million.



One of the bodies

Mexico City, Mexico

"Alien" bodies presented to government

A journalist and UFO (unidentified flying object) enthusiast has presented what he claims are two preserved alien bodies to the Mexican government. Jaime Maussan said the bodies, which have elongated heads and three fingers on each hand, were found in Nazca, Peru, and are about 1,000 years old. Critics said they are fakes, and NASA (the US space agency) said samples should be given to scientists to investigate.



Greta Thunberg at a protest

Switzerland

Climate protests sparked change

New research suggests that the climate protests in Switzerland in 2018, inspired by Greta Thunberg, made people who live there environmentally conscious. More than 1,200 Swiss people were asked about their habits before and after the protests, and 30% had changed them, including what they bought, their efforts to recycle, and how they travel.

Stavanger, Norway

Rare gold treasure found

A Norwegian man who recently bought a metal detector has discovered rare jewelry from the sixth century. Erlend Bore found the treasures—which include nine Norwegian gold medallions, three gold rings, and gold beads—in a farmer's field. The design on the medallions includes a type of horse from Norse mythology, making them rare.



Erlend Bore and his finds



Antarctica

Ice is at record low

Satellite images taken in space show that Antarctic ice levels are at their lowest for September since data began being recorded. Between the winter months of June and September, the ocean around the continent typically has about 7 million square miles of floating ice. This year, about 600,000 square miles of ice is missing. Researchers are trying to determine what caused the amount of ice to decrease so dramatically.



Horseshoe Island, Antarctica

Around the world



One of the cargo ships

Odesa, Ukraine Ships arrive safely

Two cargo ships arrived safely in Ukraine using a new route through the Black Sea. Ukrainian officials said it was the first time civilian ships had reached a Ukrainian port since July, when Russia withdrew from a deal to allow grain exports to travel safely. The ships carried 20,000 tons of wheat destined for countries in Africa and Asia.



Mark Dickey with rescuers

Morca Cave, Turkey Cave explorer is rescued

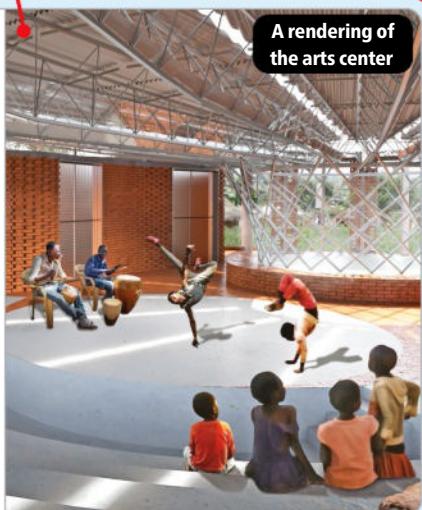
A US explorer was rescued from a cave in Turkey after he became ill and couldn't make his way out. Mark Dickey, age 40, became sick on September 2 when he was 3,400 feet underground. About 200 aid workers from across Europe joined the rescue effort, taking turns carrying Dickey through narrow cave passages on a stretcher. After emerging from the cave, he said it was "amazing" to be above ground.



The US citizens are released.

Iran Prisoners released in exchange deal

Five American citizens who were imprisoned in Iran were freed on September 18 in a deal arranged by US President Joe Biden and Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi. The five Americans—four men and one woman—had been wrongfully detained, Biden said. In exchange for their release, he agreed to dismiss charges against five Iranians imprisoned in the US and to unblock \$6 billion in Iranian oil funds, to be used for humanitarian purposes.



A rendering of the arts center



A sheet with bird stamps

Australia Stamps celebrate bird count

Australia's postal service has released a selection of special bird stamps to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Aussie Bird Count, an annual event in which people are invited to count the number of birds they see. The stamps show the birds most commonly found in 2022. The top three are the rainbow lorikeet, the noisy miner, and the Australian magpie.



The big debate

Should pickleball be banned in public?

As the sport explodes in popularity, some communities find themselves in a pickle.

What you need to know

- Pickleball players hit a hollow plastic ball over a net with a paddle. It's usually played by two or four people on a court 20 feet by 40 feet in size.
- The sport rose in popularity during the Covid-19 pandemic, and many communities built new courts or adapted tennis courts for the game.
- Recently, communities in Colorado, Oregon, Massachusetts, and New York have banned pickleball from public spaces after complaints about noise, crowds, and damage.



WOW!
In the US, an estimated 8.9 million people over age 6 play pickleball.

Pop! Pop! Pop! The sounds of pickleball games have filled the air over the past few years as people around the world took up the sport—which is a cross between tennis, badminton, and Ping-Pong. Between 2019 and 2022, its popularity grew by 159%. To some people, the rise of pickleball has been a welcome change. To others, it has become a nuisance. On and off the courts, the hobby has become a source of controversy. Conflicts have broken out over players' use of parks and other public areas. In some cases, people have become so fed up that they have called for a ban on the sport. What do you think? Should pickleball be banned in public?

Yes—there's too much racket

Pickleball has gone too far. It's become so popular that people play from dawn to dusk, making life miserable for others who live and work nearby. Compared to tennis, pickleball hits are higher-pitched and more frequent, and players and spectators are louder. The game's volume can reach over 70 decibels, about as loud as a vacuum cleaner. Public tennis courts are also getting damaged—at one Colorado park, they needed \$100,000 in repairs. When players can't find an open court, they take over areas where kids play. That crowds children out and puts them at risk of getting hit by a ball. This hobby needs to go.

No—the sport is a big hit

Pickleball is popular for a reason—it's fun, social, affordable, and healthy. It's also easier than other sports, which makes it accessible to players of all levels. It requires less space than tennis or basketball, so more people can play at a time. That's a good use of public space. Everybody has a right to enjoy these places, including pickleball players. It doesn't make sense to ban pickleball when problems can be solved in other ways, such as building courts in different areas, limiting the hours in which courts can be used, installing sound-blocking barriers, or using quieter equipment for the game. Let people play.

YES Three reasons why pickleball should be banned in public

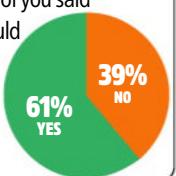
- The sounds of pickleball games are loud, annoying, and constant for people who live or work near the courts.
- Pickleball is causing damage to tennis courts in public parks.
- Players take over public spaces where kids usually play, which is unfair and also puts children at risk of injury.

NO Three reasons why pickleball should not be banned in public

- The sport is accessible to a wide range of players, and people love it.
- Pickleball's small courts are an efficient use of space. Players have just as much right to public spaces as anyone else.
- There are many other solutions that communities can try instead of banning a game that makes so many people happy.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

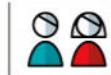
Last week, we asked if schools should require community service. Most of you said students should have to help: 61% said yes, while 39% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think pickleball should be banned in public or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.



A storytelling family

Film legend Julie Andrews wrote a new children's book with her daughter.

A ward-winning actress Julie Andrews, age 87, is famous for starring in classic films like *The Sound of Music*, the original *Mary Poppins*, and *The Princess Diaries*. She is also an author who has written more than 30 books for children, both on her own and with her daughter, Emma Walton Hamilton. Their latest book, *The Enchanted Symphony*, was published on September 12.

The picture book tells the story of a village affected by fog. It's making everyone sad until a boy is able to clear the fog with music. The story was inspired by a concert that took place in Spain in 2020, which lifted people's spirits during the pandemic. A string quartet performed in front of an audience of 2,292 plants, instead of people, and the recording went viral.

Andrews told *The Week Junior* that she and her daughter enjoy writing "stories

that celebrate the arts, especially music, and the wonders of nature. "The image of a concert hall filled with plants captured our imagination," she said.

Andrews grew up in Surrey, England, and has been acting since age 12. Her father, a high school teacher, encouraged her love of storytelling. She began writing for young readers more than 35 years ago and has been working with her daughter since 2017.

Hamilton told *The Week Junior* she enjoys collaborating with her mother, calling their time spent writing together "playful and creative." Hamilton also credits her mom with instilling a love of music in her. They said they hope *The Enchanted Symphony* gives readers a new appreciation of the power of music. "We find music to be magical," Andrews said.



Hamilton and Andrews



DID YOU KNOW?

Julie Andrews and Emma Walton Hamilton wrote the best-selling picture book series *The Very Fairy Princess*, which includes nine books.

Julie Andrews

Animator discovered

The animated sequel *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse*, which recently became available to rent or buy in homes, includes a scene involving a Lego Spider-Man that Preston Mutanga, a 14-year-old from Canada, helped create. Mutanga taught himself how to animate by watching YouTube videos, and after seeing *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*, released in 2018, he made his own animated version using Lego figures. He posted the video online, and when the film's producers saw it, they hired him as an animator.



Preston Mutanga



Sultan Al Neyadi

Making space history

A stronaut Sultan Al Neyadi of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) returned to Earth on September 4 after spending six months aboard the International Space Station (ISS)—the longest time an Arab astronaut has spent in space. During the mission, Al Neyadi, age 42, also became the first person from the UAE to conduct a space walk outside the ISS. Al Neyadi, who was part of the Space X Crew 6 mission, was called a national hero in his country. Of his historic achievement, Al Neyadi said, "I think it's a small boost toward spreading the enthusiasm in our region."

OVERHEARD

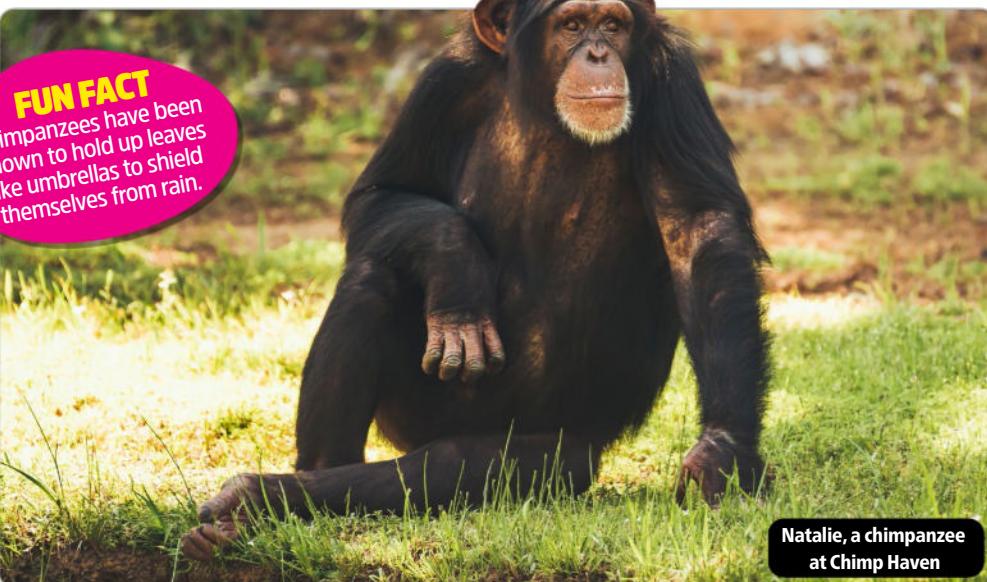


"I would've probably followed in the footsteps of my parents and become a teacher."

Actress Zendaya, age 27, on a career she may have pursued if she hadn't gone into acting. Some of her best-known roles were in Marvel's *Spider-Man* films and the 2021 sci-fi hit *Dune*.



Animals and the environment



FUN FACT

Chimpanzees have been known to hold up leaves like umbrellas to shield themselves from rain.

Macaques learn to share

Rhesus macaques usually fight over resources. After Hurricane Maria damaged many of Puerto Rico's trees in 2017, however, local macaques forged new friendships. A recent study found that these bonds have helped the monkeys survive the hot climate by peacefully sitting together in the remaining shade.



Sanctuary teaches chimps to stay safe

When extreme weather hits an animal sanctuary, there's no time to waste. At Chimp Haven in Keithville, Louisiana, staff are teaching chimpanzees to take shelter on a moment's notice. The drills are designed to keep the animals safe in case of emergency.

Chimp Haven takes care of chimpanzees that have retired from scientific research—often after studies on their brains, their behavior, or diseases. The staff works to help the primates "live their best chimp lives," director of behavior Rebekah Lewis told *The New York Times*. Based on their personalities, chimps are placed in one of 30 family groups. More than 300 chimps

currently live in the sanctuary's large enclosures, which include grassy courtyards, covered play yards, and tall structures for climbing.

In recent years, Louisiana has been increasingly affected by heavy rainstorms, hurricane-force winds, and tornadoes. To protect the chimps, staff have begun conducting extreme-weather practice drills. Each family group was assigned an alert sound, such as a ringing cowbell or a bicycle alarm.

Trainers taught the chimps that when they hear the sound, they will receive snacks and a special treat for entering a secure building. Then they trained the chimps to go inside as quickly as possible.

Challenges have arisen with the drills. For example, 35-year-old Sheena is deaf and cannot hear the sounds. Instead, staff taught her to take shelter when they show her an orange Frisbee. Some chimps have refused to go inside; others ran in and out of buildings to get extra treats. "They all understand what we're asking, but they don't necessarily choose to come in every time," said animal care specialist Clara Loesche.

Still, Chimp Haven expects the preparation to pay off. When a recent storm knocked down a large tree in the enclosure of a chimp family that had not yet completed the training, staff spent an hour enticing the animals indoors so the tree could be removed. In a future emergency, the drills could make it possible to secure the chimps within two minutes. "That would definitely be the goal and the hope," Loesche said.

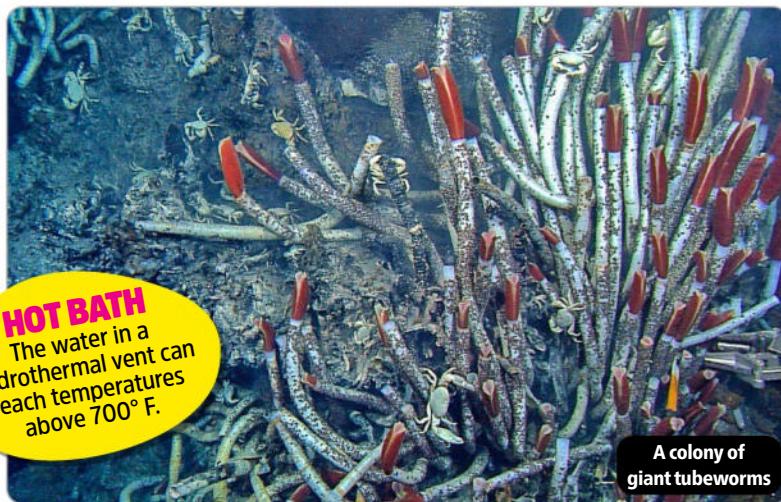


PLACE OF THE WEEK

Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge, Vermont

Located on 6,729 acres in Vermont near the Canadian border, the Missisquoi National Wildlife Refuge was established in 1943 as a protected place for migratory birds. More than 200 species of birds, including wood ducks, mallards, and meadowlarks, call the refuge home. Otters, salamanders, wood frogs, and spiny softshell turtles can also be spotted. Five walking trails allow visitors to observe wildlife in wetlands and grasslands, while canoes and other boats can be used in the waterways. Bird walks and "owl prowls" are held throughout the year.





Animals found under ocean floor

An international team of scientists from the Schmidt Ocean Institute (SOI) has discovered life in a surprising part of the ocean. The team found a whole new ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another) under hydrothermal vents.

Hydrothermal vents are structures on the ocean floor. They occur when magma from underwater volcanoes heats up seawater as it flows through cracks in Earth's oceanic crust. The water then shoots out of the rock like a hot spring. Animals, such as long red worms called

tubeworms, sometimes live above the surface of these vents.

The SOI team used an underwater robot named SuBastian to turn over pieces of the ocean floor at a vent in the Pacific Ocean. Underneath it, they discovered cave systems filled with tubeworms and their larvae (young), bacteria, snails, and other worms. Further research will be done to find out whether animals are traveling through the vents. SOI's executive director, Jyotika Virmani, said the discovery "provides fresh evidence that life exists in incredible places."

Animal of the Week

Passion vine butterfly



- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 8 months
- **HABITAT:** Tropical areas in the Americas
- **DIET:** Nectar and pollen from flowers
- **SIZE:** About 1.5 to 2.4 inches
- **FUN FACT:** Eating pollen helps these butterflies produce chemicals that taste bad to predators.



Good week / Bad week



Red wolves

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has agreed to release captive red wolves into the wild in North Carolina. Conservation groups had sued the agency in 2020 after it stopped its reintroduction program for the endangered species.



Hippos

Recent reports from Uganda showed that the number of hippopotamuses in the country's national parks has declined. Experts believe people have been illegally hunting them for meat or for the valuable ivory in their teeth.



ASK AN EXPERT

"Why do black-footed ferrets have dark masks?"

Juniper, 10, Washington

Whitney L. Heuring
Conservation and science manager,
Phoenix Zoo

We don't know for sure, but there are a couple of potential benefits of having a black mask. The mask may reduce glare from incoming light and help with vision at night. It may also help to hide the ferret's eyes and make it more difficult to be detected by a predator.



A black-footed ferret

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about the Phoenix Zoo at phoenixzoo.org.



All about the World Series

The grandest stage

Major League Baseball's World Series turns 120 years old.

The most exciting event in baseball, the MLB World Series, will begin next month. The series is the final set of postseason games in which the National League champion competes against the American League champion.



The Boston Americans in 1903



The Houston Astros played the Philadelphia Phillies in the 2022 World Series—and won, four games to two.

GETTY IMAGES (7); MBL; RAVLINGS; SPORTING GOODS

How the series began

The National League of Professional Baseball Clubs, now known as the National League (NL), was founded in 1876. A rival league, the American League (AL), started in 1901. After two years of discussions, the two leagues reached a formal agreement in 1903 to play a postseason series. It was called the World's Championship Series and would crown one winner. The first series was played in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1903 between the NL champion Pittsburgh Pirates and the AL champion Boston Americans (later renamed the Boston Red Sox). Boston won.

Making it to the World Series

There are 162 games in an MLB season. Each league is divided into three divisions: East, Central, and West. The team with the most wins in its division goes to the playoffs. In addition, the three next-best teams in each league get a Wild Card spot for a total of 12 playoff teams.

The two teams with the best records in each league automatically advance to the divisional (second) round.

Competition continues until two teams—one from each league—are left. These teams play a best-of-seven World Series. The first team to win four games is the champion and receives the Commissioner's Trophy.



The Commissioner's Trophy

3 famous curses

Baseball is famous for superstitious beliefs, including that a team is "cursed" with bad luck. Here are three of the sport's best-known curses.



Curse of the Bambino

For decades, Boston Red Sox fans believed the team was cursed for trading superstar player Babe Ruth ("The Bambino," left) in 1920 to their biggest rival, the New York Yankees. The Red Sox lost four World Series before they beat the St. Louis Cardinals in 2004, their first World Series win in 86 years.





in US baseball



Curse of the Black Sox

In 1919, eight Chicago White Sox players (including pitcher Eddie Cicotte, left) were accused of losing the World Series to the Cincinnati Reds in exchange for money. The players were banned from baseball, but the "Curse of the Black Sox" stuck until the team's World Series win in 2005.



Billy Goat Curse

In 1945, the Chicago Cubs ejected a fan who came to a game with his goat. The fan told the team it would never win a World Series again. For years, fans of opposing teams wore goat masks (left) to games to keep the "Billy Goat Curse" alive. In 2016, the Cubs won their first Series since 1908.



Don Larsen

Memorable moments

In its 120 years, the World Series has delighted fans with numerous legendary moments. Don Larsen of the New York Yankees pitched the only perfect game (meaning no opposing players reached base) in World Series history in 1956. Four years later, Bill Mazeroski of the Pittsburgh Pirates hit the first-ever walk-off homer to score the winning run in Game Seven of a World Series. In 1968, St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Bob Gibson set the record for the most strikeouts in a World Series game, with 17. An injured Kirk Gibson of the Los Angeles Dodgers came off the bench to hit a game-winning home run in the ninth inning of Game One in 1988. In 2018, the Red Sox and Dodgers played the longest-ever World Series game, lasting 18 innings.



Coming soon: the 2023 championship

When *The Week Junior* went to press, the AL's Baltimore Orioles and NL's Atlanta Braves were leading their respective leagues and heading into the playoffs. Other teams in contention to make it to this year's World Series include the Dodgers and the Houston Astros, the 2022 World Series champions. The postseason starts on October 3, and the World Series will begin on October 27. Games will be played at the home stadiums of the two competing teams. The Series will end on November 4 if all seven games are played—earlier if they aren't—and one team will go home with the coveted trophy.





WOW!
The first dinosaurs appeared during the Triassic Period, between 252 and 201 million years ago.



An artist's rendering of Venetoraptor gassenaee

“Rabbit reptile” species is named

Scientists studying the remains of a prehistoric reptile have identified it as a new species that lived about 230 million years ago. Named Venetoraptor gassenaee, it belongs to a larger group of extinct creatures called lagerpetids, which means “rabbit reptiles.” The newly named fossil could help scientists learn more about lagerpetids and their close relatives, the pterosaurs—flying reptiles that lived alongside dinosaurs.

Very few fossils (preserved impressions or traces of ancient plants and animals) of lagerpetids have ever been found, which means scientists have not been able to learn much about them. This fossil is unusual because it is well preserved and includes large parts of the creature’s skull and hands. These features are particularly helpful for studying an animal, especially its diet and lifestyle.

The fossil was discovered in Brazil by Rodrigo Temp Müller, a scientist with Federal University of Santa Maria. Müller and his team determined that the Venetoraptor was about three feet long and weighed about as much as a house cat. It had a sharp beak and clawed feet that may



The Venetoraptor gassenaee fossil

have helped it climb trees and hunt for food. The Venetoraptor also had a fourth digit on its right hand that has not been seen in other lagerpetids but has been seen on pterosaurs.

Scientists have believed for many years that all lagerpetid species were similar to one another. These new findings, however, have led Müller and his team to conclude that the reptiles came in a wide variety of body sizes and characteristics.

The team has also concluded that the Venetoraptor was more closely related to pterosaurs than other lagerpetids were. Scientists know that pterosaurs were the first vertebrates (animals with a backbone) to fly but don’t know where they came from or how they evolved (changed very slowly over time) to become capable of flight. The findings about the Venetoraptor could shed light on how pterosaurs evolved.

The scientists plan to compare the Venetoraptor’s beak and claws to those of living animals to get a better idea of what these features might have been used for. Müller will also continue searching for more fossils in the area where this one was discovered.

The largest pterosaur



The largest creature ever known to fly in Earth’s skies was a pterosaur named Quetzalcoatlus northropi (depicted in the drawing above) that lived about 70 million years ago. It was first identified based on fossils discovered in 1975 in Big Bend National Park in Texas. The Quetzalcoatlus stood about 12 feet tall and had a wingspan that could have stretched up to 40 feet wide—about the length of a city bus.

Scientists think the massive flying reptile most likely had to jump into the air and flap its wings in order to take flight. It also may have eaten by using its long toothless beak to pluck animals off the ground or out of the water. Like other pterosaurs, it died out following the extinction event that wiped out the dinosaurs about 66 million years ago.



Study uses DNA to estimate an animal's age

Scientists have found a way to estimate an animal's age using blood samples. A team analyzed DNA (a chemical that carries instructions for how a living thing grows and develops) in the samples of 185 mammal species. They looked for certain changes and patterns in the DNA, which are indicators of age. Based on those indicators, they could determine how old the animal was. This method for estimating age is known as an epigenetic clock.

The study was led by Steve Horvath, a scientist who worked at the University of California at Los Angeles when he began the research in 2010 and now has a job with a private company. During his early research, he studied human DNA to predict people's ages.

DID YOU KNOW?
Polar bears typically live as long as 25 to 30 years in the wild and about 23 years in captivity.

In the most recent study, Horvath and his team went beyond humans, examining the blood samples of animals including rats, whales, and pigs. They found that the same formula worked across all the species. Their method

was also highly accurate:

They could pinpoint an animal's epigenetic age within a year of its actual age.

The method is being used by scientists in Alaska to estimate the age of polar bears and track their population levels. In the past, they had to pull a bear's tooth and visually examine it to know its age. Drawing blood is a simpler process that will allow for more testing.

Horvath and his team hope that epigenetic clocks could one day be used to slow the aging process in mammals.



Knowing a bear's age helps scientists track its population growth or decline.



A rendering of the new community

Sustainable town designed in Canada

A new community in Canada will be fully sustainable and functioning off the power grid. It will have 67 homes with solar power (energy generated using sunlight), a grocery store, healthcare facilities, and shared workspaces. The neighborhood will be walkable, to reduce the need for cars.

Construction on the development in Eastern Ontario is set to begin in 2024. The homes will use about 80% less energy than traditional homes

and generate more electricity than they use. They will have solar panels, shades to reduce the need for heating and cooling, and collection areas for rainwater. Excess energy created by homes will be shared.

The community will be surrounded by forests and designed to limit its effect on the land around it. "We need to figure out how to design in a way where humans and nature are reconnected," said one of the project's leaders.



A strong but gentle set of grippers



The grippers holding a piece of paper

Scientists have designed robotic grippers inspired by *kirigami*, the Japanese art of cutting and folding paper. The team at North Carolina State University made the grippers using a thin, flexible film that can change shape to grab, hold, and release objects.

The grippers are strong enough to lift 16,000 times their own weight but delicate enough to turn the pages of a book, hold something as thin as a human hair, and fold clothes. The team said the tools could be used for deep-sea exploration, precision surgery, or food processing.



Photos of the week

2023
REFOCUS
PHOTOGRAPHER
OF THE YEAR
FINALISTS



Taking flight

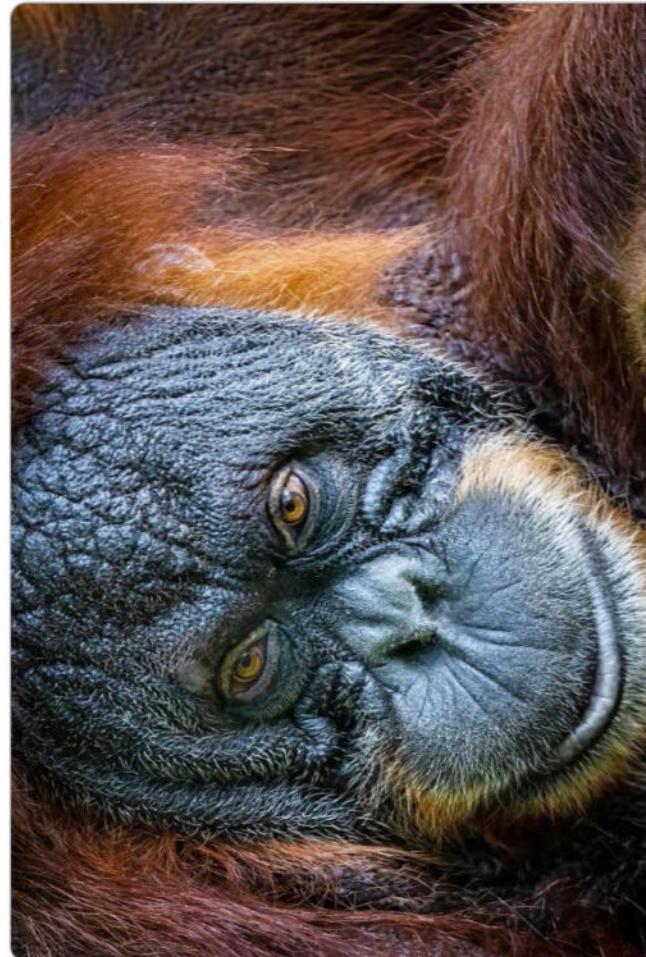
Harris Lynch took this photo of a bird spreading its wings.



Seeing green

Martin Maier shot this picture of rolling hills.

YEVHEN KOSTIUK; MICHAEL PACHIS; DANIEL SILY; MARTIN MAIER; HARRIS LYNCH; JUDITH KUHN



Photos of the week



Dramatic drop

Judith Kuhn captured this shot of waterfalls covered in snow.



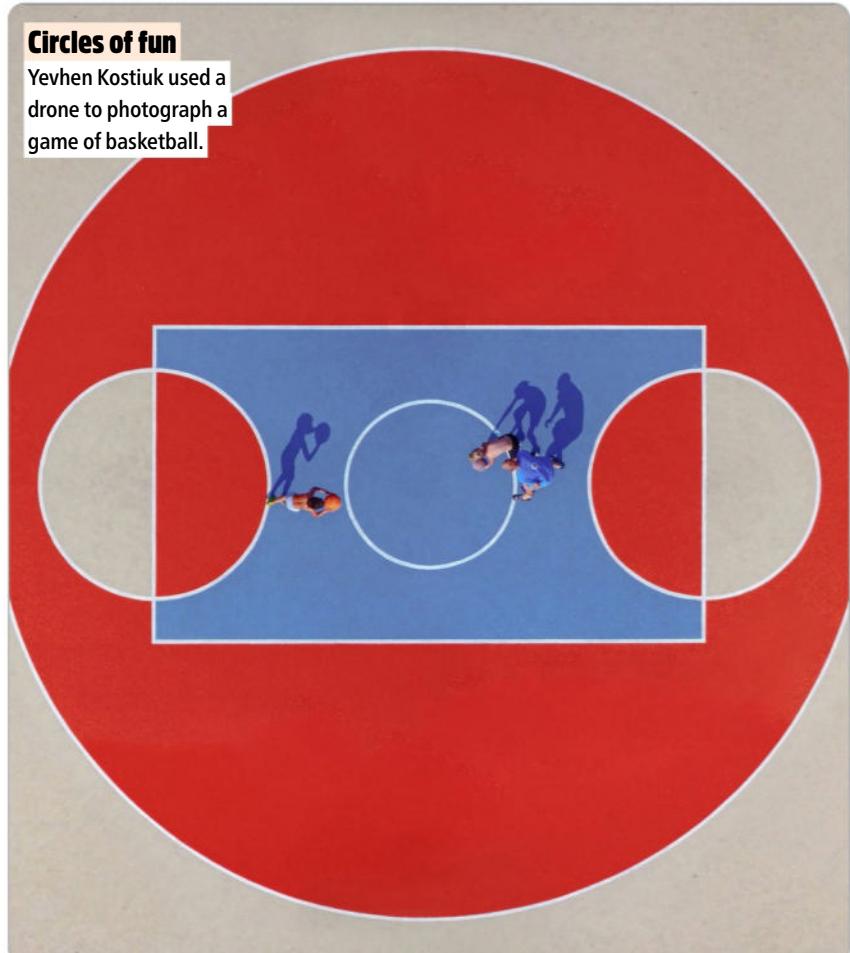
Precious cargo

This picture of a fish with eggs in its mouth was snapped by Daniel Sly.



Family bond

This image of a mother and her son was taken by Michael Pachis.



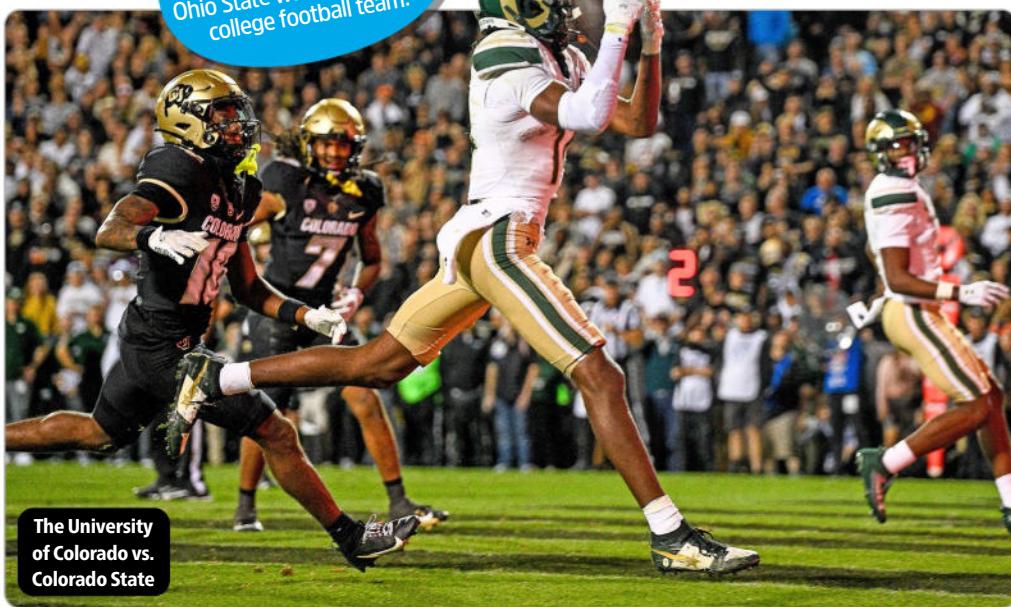
Circles of fun

Yevhen Kostiu used a drone to photograph a game of basketball.



FUN FACT
In a recent survey, more than 6 million people said Ohio State was their favorite college football team.

Sports



The University of Colorado vs. Colorado State

About Deion Sanders



The University of Colorado's head coach, Deion Sanders, is a former football and baseball star. He spent 14 seasons in the National Football League and played Major League Baseball during nine of his off-seasons. He is the only athlete to have competed in both the Super Bowl and the World Series.

Thrilling games in college football

The 2023 college football season has begun.

The University of Georgia, the reigning national champions, started the season ranked number one. After three weeks of games, they are undefeated and remain at the top of the rankings even though they have not been as dominant on the field as they were last year.

One of the teams attracting attention this season is the University of Colorado. Last year, the Buffaloes had a record of 1–11, but this year they are already 3–0. They have a new head coach, Deion Sanders (see box at top right), also known as Coach Prime, and he brought many new players



Missouri kicker Harrison Mevis

to the program, including two of his sons: Shedeur, the quarterback, and Shilo, a defensive back.

Colorado's week three matchup on September 16 was against their rival, Colorado State University (CSU). It was an exciting game that Colorado won, 43–35, in double overtime. In the first quarter, Shilo Sanders scored his team's first touchdown after intercepting a CSU pass. In the fourth quarter, with CSU leading and minutes left to play, Shedeur Sanders helped execute a 98-yard drive to tie the score and force the game into overtime, during which he threw for two more touchdowns.

Earlier that day, the University of Missouri, who were unranked going into their game, upset Kansas State University, who had been ranked 15th in the country. With three seconds left to play and the score tied, Missouri kicker Harrison Mevis scored a game-winning 61-yard field goal to secure a 30–27 victory. It was the longest field goal in Southeastern Conference history.

In another upset, the unranked University of Florida hosted the University of Tennessee, who were ranked number 11, and beat them, 29–16. Meanwhile, third-ranked Florida State University visited unranked Boston College and was almost handed its first loss of the season but came away with a 31–29 victory.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On September 13, the Atlanta Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies, 4–1, and clinched their sixth straight National League (NL) East division title. The Braves have now won 23 division titles, the most of any franchise. Three days later, the Los Angeles Dodgers clinched the NL West title, their 10th in 11 seasons. Both teams have earned spots in the upcoming MLB playoffs.



Aja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces

BASKETBALL

In the first round of the WNBA playoffs, the Las Vegas Aces, who are the defending champions, completed a two-game sweep of the Chicago Sky on September 17. Aces star Aja Wilson scored 38 points in the second game.

CYCLING

On September 17, Sepp Kuss of the US won the Spanish Vuelta, one of cycling's three major Grand Tour road races. He is the first American to win a Grand Tour since 2013.



Athing Mu

DID YOU KNOW?

Nike co-founder Bill Bowerman was a track coach at the University of Oregon.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Griffin Colapinto

AGE: 25 SPORT: SURFING
TEAM: QUALIFIED FOR TEAM USA
AT THE 2024 PARIS OLYMPICS

Starting out My dad ran a surf camp in our California hometown for about 20 years, so I grew up at the beach. I learned to surf through him. I was good at it right away, and I wanted to keep doing it.

Role models My first favorite surfer was Julian Wilson. Then I also liked Kelly Slater and Joel Parkinson. I would try to emulate them.

Training plan If I'm getting ready for the season and contests are coming up, I'll spend four to six hours a day on the water depending on how good the waves are. I also do Pilates workouts to strengthen my muscles.

Prep work On days when I have a competition, I'll wake up early. The first thing I do is read for 15 minutes, meditate, then write a little bit in my journal. After I make food and get my equipment ready, I head off. I let it flow from there.

Facing pressure Right before I paddle out in a contest, I'll do a breathing exercise and a little meditation. Once a heat starts, nerves don't really come in because you're so prepared and nothing goes through your head—you just see a wave and react. If you think at all, that's when you mess up.

Special benefits My favorite thing about surfing is that it teaches you a lot about life and how to go with the flow. Also, if you have something going on in your life that might be kind of a burden, you can go surf and just forget about all that.

Big plan My next goal is to win at the Olympics.



Big US meet for track and field stars

On September 16 and 17, track and field stars from around the world competed at the Prefontaine Classic in Eugene, Oregon. It was the final event of the 2023 Diamond League, a series of top international competitions. Several records were broken during the meet, and the American athletes earned 25 medals in all.

Each year, the Prefontaine Classic takes place at the University of Oregon's famous Hayward Field, which was built in 1919. The first event was held in 1975 and is named after Steve Prefontaine, a record-setting running champion from Oregon who died in 1975 at age 24.

On the second day of this year's meet, two athletes set world records. Armand Duplantis of Sweden reached a historic 6.23 meters in the pole vault, beating his own existing record of

6.21 meters. In the women's 5,000-meter race, Ethiopia's Gudaf Tsegay finished with a time of 14:00.21, nearly five seconds faster than the previous record, which was set in June.

Among the American gold medalists were Athing Mu, who won the women's 800-meter race and broke her own American record. Meanwhile, Christian Coleman placed first in the men's 100-meter race, .02 seconds ahead of fellow American Noah Lyles, who had earned the unofficial title of "World's Fastest Man" in August. Valarie Allman beat fellow American Laulauga Tausaga by 0.3 meters for the gold in discus, and in shot put, Chase Ealey beat her competitors by nearly a full meter. In men's shot put, Joe Kovacs took the gold by narrowly beating Ryan Crouser, another American.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Samantha Foster**

Sport: **Gymnastics**

"Ms. Sammy is the best coach I could ever have. She is always kind and pushes us to be the best people and gymnasts we can be. She always has a big smile at the start of practice, and she shares stories about her puppy while we stretch. To push us to do our best, she does lots of contests that are fun and at the same time make us better gymnasts. She is always proud of us, and that's what makes her a great coach." Eva, 10, Massachusetts



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.



Arts and entertainment



Spy Kids: Armageddon

The next chapter of *Spy Kids*

The popular action franchise is back with a new family on a mission to stop a villain and save the world.

Spy Kids movies have been around since 2001, and writer-director Robert Rodriguez has just delivered his fifth film in the series. *Spy Kids: Armageddon*, an action-comedy, introduces a new family of spies to the franchise and is now streaming on Netflix.

In the first *Spy Kids*, a brother and sister learn that their parents are spies, and the kids end up working as spies to save them from an evil mastermind. There were two sequels to that film, then a fourth film with a different family.



Robert Rodriguez

Rodriguez, who is Mexican American, makes all the *Spy Kids* families Latino. He told *The Week Junior* the mission of the franchise has been "to show families you don't normally see on the big screen in a big spy way."

In *Armageddon*, Patty and Tony Tango-Torrez find out their parents are secret agents when they accidentally help a video game developer use their parents' spy software to control all the world's technology. The kids must use their gaming skills to stop him.

Rodriguez knows a lot about working with family. Over the years,

his own children have acted in, produced, and co-written some of his films. Now they are in their teens and 20s, and for *Armageddon*, his son Racer co-wrote the script and came up with the idea for the villain, son Rebel helped with the music, son Rogue helped design the video game in the film, and daughter Rhiannon sang on the soundtrack. Rodriguez said working with them was "a dream."

Like all *Spy Kids* films, the main theme of the new movie is about family unity and the strength that comes with it. Rodriguez told *The Week Junior*, "These movies show how important our ties are to our tribe and how support and cooperation can make the world better."

3 facts about *Spy Kids*



The Texas flag

Special setting

The *Spy Kids* films were made in Rodriguez's home state of Texas. His production company, Troublemaker Studios, is based in Austin. He said living and working in Texas gives him ideas for Latin stories that Hollywood hasn't told.

True elements

All the parents in *Spy Kids* are members of the Organization of Super Spies (OSS). The group is based on a real spy organization run by William Joseph "Wild Bill" Donovan (pictured at right) during World War II (1939–1945).



More adaptations

Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over (2003) inspired a real-life Nintendo Game Boy Advance video game with the same title. In 2018, Netflix released the animated series *Spy Kids: Mission Control*, which ran for two seasons.

Arts and entertainment

DID YOU KNOW?

Charleston, South Carolina, was founded in 1670 and is the oldest city in the state.



The International African American Museum

New museum in South Carolina

The International African American Museum (IAAM) opened this summer in Charleston, South Carolina. Its mission is to pay tribute to the history and culture of the African people who were captured and brought to the US during the Atlantic Slave Trade (around 1526 to 1867). It also explores the impact enslaved people and their descendants have had in the US and around the world.

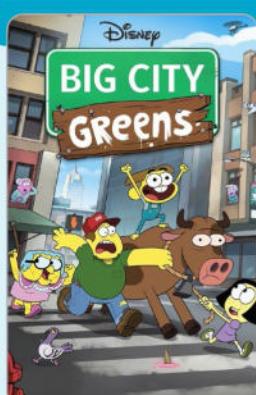
From the late 1600s to the early 1800s, hundreds of thousands of enslaved people were brought to South Carolina. The museum was built on Charleston's Gadsden's Wharf, where slave ships used to dock. "This is a site of trauma," Dr. Tonya M. Matthews, the museum's president and chief executive officer, told CBS News. "But look who's standing here now. That's what makes it a site of joy and triumph."



Inside the museum

The IAAM is elevated off the ground, and an area underneath it, the Tide Tribute, features a shallow pool of water that flows over human shapes. Inside, there are nine galleries filled with artwork, films, interactive experiences, and more than 150 historical objects. Some topics visitors can learn about include West and West Central Africa, the work of enslaved people on rice plantations, and key moments in African American history. There is also a room where the walls are covered in enslaved people's original African names.

Visitors to the IAAM experience a range of emotions, Matthews told *Teen Vogue*, "ranging from happiness to sadness, to victory, to frustration, to resilience and resistance, to flat-out joy in one visit." She is glad about that, she said, because those feelings are "very similar" to the range of stories told at the museum.



Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



READER RECOMMENDS

Big City Greens (Disney Now, Disney+, Hulu)

"This show brings me and my sister joy. It is a comedy about the Green family, who have moved from the country to a city. The main character is a funny, optimistic, and adventurous 10-year-old boy named Cricket. His older sister, Tilly, also is funny and loves animals. The kids' grandmother, Gramma Alice, is very funny and she craves action. The bad guy is a store owner named Chip Whistler. Every time he messes with the Greens, his tooth gets cracked or broken. The show is hilarious and makes me laugh every time I watch an episode." Maxx, 9, Illinois



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



One Piece (Netflix)

One of the best-selling manga (Japanese comics) series of all time has been adapted into this live-action adventure series. It follows Monkey D. Luffy, a young adventurer who embarks on an epic and dangerous journey to find a legendary treasure. It is rated TV-14.



Evolution Earth (PBS.org) (PBS app)

This new documentary series highlights the ways animals around the world are adapting to climate change (long-term changes in weather patterns). In one episode, you'll learn the surprising reason why red colobus monkeys in Zanzibar have started eating charcoal.



Young Love (Max)

In 2019, filmmaker and former pro football player Matthew A. Cherry released *Hair Love*, an award-winning animated short film about a girl named Zuri Young and her parents. Their story continues in this new series, which addresses subjects such as growing up and social issues.



On screen



DID YOU KNOW?

Hamilton has been translated into Spanish and German for international productions of the musical.

The Hamilton Simulator in Roblox

Visit a Hamilton Roblox world

The Hamilton Simulator, an immersive online experience based on the award-winning musical *Hamilton*, recently launched on Roblox. It was developed with the approval of *Hamilton*'s writer and original star, Lin-Manuel Miranda, and input from the show's set designer, David Korins.

Hamilton is set during the American Revolution (1775–1783) and the early days of the US. It revolves around Alexander Hamilton, who was one of General George Washington's trusted soldiers and later wrote most of the essays (called the Federalist Papers) that were used to create the US Constitution. He was also the nation's first secretary of the treasury.

The Hamilton Simulator has eight playable locations from the show, such as a ballroom, a tavern, and George Washington's

office. You play as Hamilton and can unlock up to 15 historical figures who can join your character in the action. The characters look like the show's original Broadway cast but with the boxy bodies of Roblox avatars, and they each have their own special skills and power rating. The battles in the game are unique because instead of fighting, the characters rap and sing songs from the *Hamilton* soundtrack.

When the game was announced, Miranda said, "I can't wait to see how people will shape their own adventures, forge new connections, and experience *Hamilton* in an entirely new and interactive way with Roblox." The simulator doesn't feature the entire *Hamilton* story, but there are plans to expand it in the coming months.



The Hamilton logo, Roblox style



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

HARRY POTTER FAN CLUB

Apple App Store, Google Play

This is an official app for fans of the Harry Potter books, films, and games. It offers fun articles, videos, puzzles, crafting ideas, and weekly quizzes. You also can try on the famous Sorting Hat, discover which Hogwarts house you would belong to, and get news updates on the Wizarding World.



VIDEO OF THE WEEK



THE US MINT AT PHILADELPHIA VIRTUAL TOUR

tinyurl.com/TWJUS-CoinTour

Get an up-close look at how coins are made at the US Mint facility in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. You'll see stages of production that include melting metal in furnaces hotter than 1,600° F and printing the US seal on the coins.

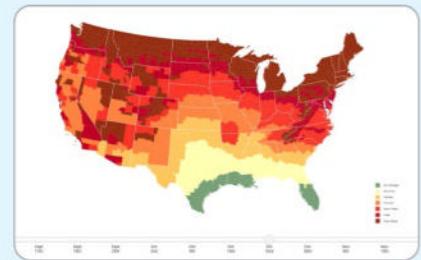


WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

FALL FOLIAGE PREDICTION MAP

smokymountains.com/fall-foliage-map

With autumn beginning on September 23, now is a great time to start tracking leaf-peeping season across the country. The map on this site will help you know when the fall colors will be at their peak in an area, so you can plan a walk or drive to see trees in their red, orange, and yellow glory.



Book club

BOOK OF THE WEEK

Oliver's Great Big Universe

By Jorge Cham

(Amulet Books)

Near the end of fourth grade, a scientist named Dr. Howard comes to Oliver's class to speak about his work. Oliver hasn't always been focused or motivated at school, but the scientist captures his attention. Dr. Howard gives a lesson on gamma rays, a type of light that can come from outer space. From that day on, Oliver becomes

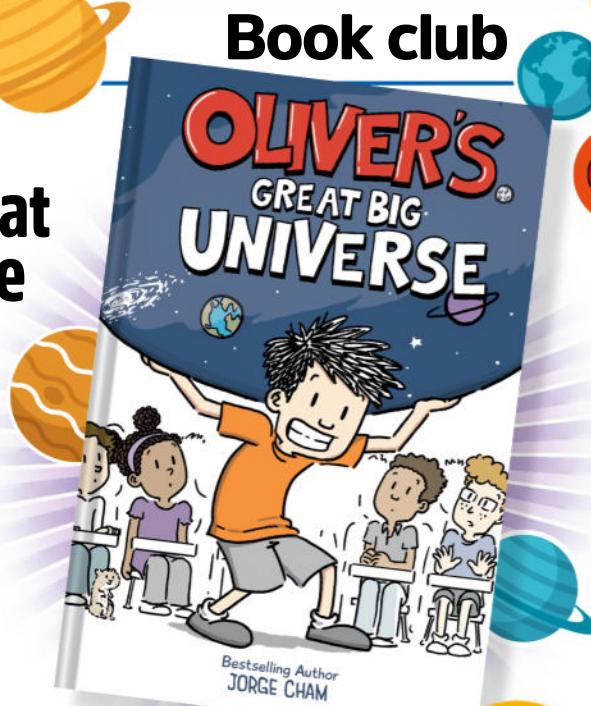
fascinated with science.

When Oliver tells Dr.

Howard he wants to be an astrophysicist (a

scientist who studies outer

space), Dr. Howard offers to answer any questions he has. Oliver's many misadventures, such as getting stuck on his family's couch, prompt discussions with Dr. Howard about black holes, how time passes, and even whether ghosts and aliens exist. Oliver and his new friend, Evie, also create a comic about the planets that lands them in the principal's office. This book will not only make you laugh, but it also explains scientific concepts in unforgettable ways. Plus, a big twist in the story will probably take you by surprise. With illustrations on every page and many middle school antics taking place, this book may remind you of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Jorge Cham

We spoke to the author of *Oliver's Great Big Universe*.



What inspired this book?

I wanted to write a book that explains science in a relatable way. I thought it would be great if characters shared facts about the universe.

When did you get interested in drawing?

I grew up in Panama because my parents worked for the Panama Canal. My dad would come home with huge boxes of comic books he'd gotten at garage sales. My brother and I loved them.

What comics did you enjoy most as a child?

I loved *Snoopy* and *Charlie Brown*. *Calvin and Hobbes* also had a big influence on me.

Did you always enjoy science?

Yes, but I went more in the direction of engineering mostly because my parents are engineers.

Favorite planet?

The second book in this series is about Earth. I'm a big fan of Earth because it's our home.

4 books to celebrate Hispanic culture

Hispanic Heritage Month takes place from September 15 to October 15.



Chupacabra

By George Lopez with Ryan Calejo, illustrated by Santy Gutiérrez (Viking Books for Young Readers)

In this fantasy inspired by the author's own childhood and Latinx folklore, Jorge encounters a monster in the woods. It turns out to be a young chupacabra, a toothy creature who got separated from his family. Will Jorge be able to keep it a secret? Ages 8–12



The Lords of Night

By J.C. Cervantes (Rick Riordan Presents)

Renata gets swooped up in a suspenseful adventure that involves aliens, Maya civilization, Aztec gods, and demons. The story ends on a cliffhanger, but you won't have to wait long to find out what happens. The second book in this series will be released in October. Ages 8–12



Mexikid

By Pedro Martin (Dial Books)

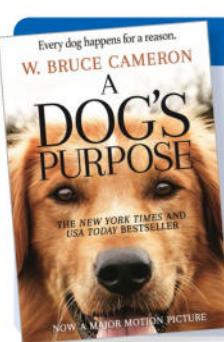
In this graphic-novel memoir set in the 1970s, the author hilariously describes what it was like to grow up as one of nine children. The whole family piles into their camper for a road trip to Mexico to bring their grandfather to America. The vibrant art and text brings the author's childhood and culture to life. Ages 10–14



Something Like Home

By Andrea Beatriz Arango (Random House Books for Young Readers)

Laura, who lives with her aunt because her parents aren't able to take care of her, finds a sick puppy and nurses him back to health. She wants to train the puppy to be a therapy dog so he can visit her parents in a rehabilitation center. This new heartfelt novel is written in verse (poetry). Ages 10–14



READER RECOMMENDS

A Dog's Purpose By W. Bruce Cameron

"I recommend *A Dog's Purpose* because it is funny, realistic, and intriguing. This book is about a dog who dies many times over and is reborn into the body of another breed of dog, and in each life he learns lessons that help him in the rest of his long lives. I love this book so much. It totally reminds me of my dog, and it highlights each and every good feature of a dog." Juniper, 11, Washington

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



How to...

WOW!
More than 6 million
people in the US
practice some form of
martial arts.



Try out martial arts

Get to know more about these ancient traditions of self-defense.

Martial arts are a form of combat skills that originated thousands of years ago. There are many different types, from karate to judo to jujitsu, which teach self-defense while also building confidence and increasing mental and physical strength. Here's how to get started.

Learn the background

Martial arts can be traced back as far as 3000 BCE. Many of them originated and were developed in Asian nations, but other countries, like Germany and Brazil, also created their own versions. Martial arts were originally used in ancient battles, and the different styles each have their own moves that require agility and concentration to execute.

Consider different styles

Among the different forms of martial arts, karate, tae kwon do, and Brazilian jiu-jitsu (which stems from judo) are considered good options for beginners because they're made up of simpler moves. Kids can learn to master the moves one by one, then combine them into more complicated sequences as they progress. One way to find out more about the various styles of martial arts and



You can advance to
different belt colors.

which you might like best is by watching videos on YouTube. With an adult's help, you can also call or email a martial arts school in your community to ask questions.

Take a class

Many martial arts studios will allow you to take a complimentary beginner class to try it out. Once you connect with a martial art that you like, you can proceed with beginner classes. Some community recreation departments also offer martial arts classes with qualified instructors. In addition, there are free online options that can help you get started. Two sites you can check out are dojogohomeschool.com and greatstartkarate.com.

Practice and compete

In every style of martial arts, it's particularly important to work on correct form, which takes time and patience. Many martial arts have a belt ranking system. In this type of system, you can progress to different belt levels, which are coded by color. As you improve, you might also have the opportunity to participate in martial arts competitions. This allows you to practice the moves you've mastered during your classes—and learn how to face opponents and adjust your strategy on the fly.

4 popular styles of martial arts

There are more than 180 types of martial arts. Here are some options that might interest you.

Karate

This type of martial art focuses on self-defense and targeting the weaker parts of the opponent's body with moves like elbow strikes, kicks, punches, and hand strikes.



Judo

With many techniques similar to wrestling, judo uses skills like throwing and grappling an opponent to overcome them.



Jujitsu

This martial art form is based on the hand-to-hand techniques of the samurai.



Jujitsu involves close-combat moves that turn an opponent's force back against them.

Tai chi

Instead of being primarily used for self-defense, tai chi is a gentle type of martial art focused on reducing stress and improving health. The slow, steady movements can strengthen muscles and flexibility while helping to clear the mind.





START UP A CONVERSATION

Sometimes it's hard to know what to say when you see someone you may not know very well. This could happen if you run into someone outside school, like at the grocery store, or if you meet someone new at an activity. Here are a few ways you can begin chatting.

- 1. Say hello.** A simple "Hi, Eli" is a friendly way to start. If you're talking to a new person, introduce yourself by saying, "Hi, I'm Riley. What's your name?"
- 2. Ask a question.** Start by asking, "How are you?" The other person may share something that leads to more conversation. You can also ask about something you have in common. One idea: "Have you seen any good movies lately?"

- 3. Give a compliment.** Saying something nice is another way to keep the conversation going. You could compliment the person on the shirt they're wearing, then follow up by asking where it came from.



DID YOU KNOW?
In one survey about preferred pasta shapes, 68% of respondents said spaghetti is their favorite.



WARNING!

Ask an adult's permission before using a knife, stovetop, blender, or food processor.

Make green goddess pasta salad

Ingredients

- 1 pound pasta
- 4 eggs, hard-boiled and roughly chopped
- 1 cup chopped Persian cucumber
- 1 avocado, diced
- 1 can chickpeas, rinsed and drained
- 1 clove garlic
- ¾ cup whole-milk Greek yogurt
- ¼ cup mayonnaise
- 1½ cups loosely packed mixed chopped herbs (such as parsley, chives, dill, mint, basil, and/or tarragon)
- Juice of 1 lemon
- ¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Instructions

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil. Cook the pasta according to package directions for al dente (firm), then drain and rinse under cold water. Set pasta aside.
2. Meanwhile, make the dressing. Combine the garlic, Greek yogurt, mayonnaise, herbs, lemon, and olive oil

in a blender or food processor and puree until well combined. Season dressing to taste with salt and pepper.

3. In a large bowl, combine the cooked pasta, hard-boiled eggs, cucumber, avocado, and chickpeas. Pour the dressing over the top and toss to coat. Makes 4 to 6 servings.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK

KEEP TENNIS BALLS OUT OF LANDFILLS

More than 125 million tennis balls end up in landfills every year. Tennis balls, which are made from rubber and felt, aren't biodegradable (able to break down) and can take 400 years to decompose. However, there are ways to help. Find out if your local recycling center or animal shelter accepts used tennis balls, and bring any you have there. You can also ask your town council if you can set up a bin at a local court to collect used tennis balls. Once you've collected at least 100 balls, an adult can help you reach out to organizations like RecycleBalls (recycleballs.org) or ReBounces (rebounces.com), which recycle tennis balls into new items.





Puzzles



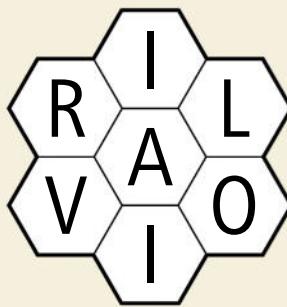
Word ladder

To change the word BOOK into the word WORM, use each clue to fill in a word that is only one letter different from the word before it. If you get stuck, try solving from the bottom up.



STEPPING STONES

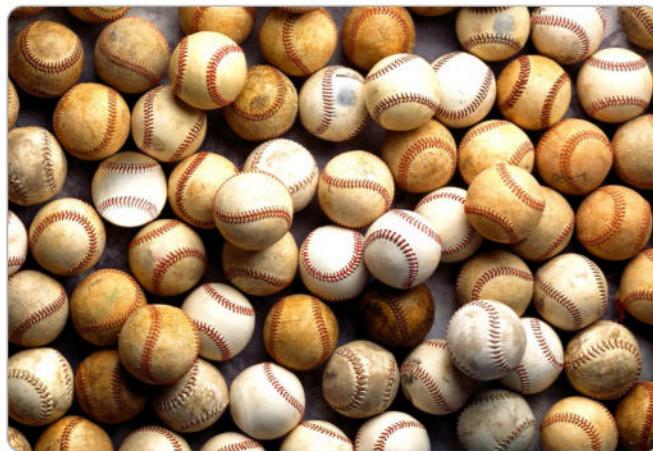
Each figure hides the name of a seven-letter pasta dish. To find each one, start anywhere and move in an unbroken path through letters that share a border (no jumping!), using each letter once.



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

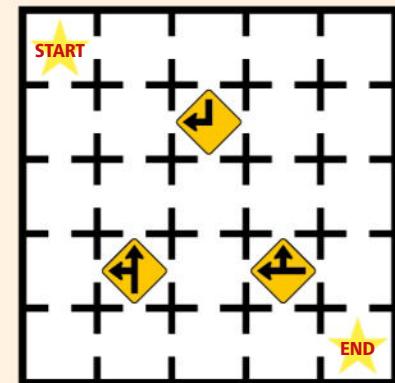
Spot the difference

These two pictures of baseballs appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?



DETOURS

Draw one continuous path from START to END that goes through every single square without crossing itself. For squares with signs, you may only enter at the arrow's base, and you may only make a turn in the direction of an arrow shown.



Crossmath

Fill each empty box with a number or a mathematical symbol (+, -, ×, or ÷) to complete the equations across and down. A symbol can be used more than once. (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)





Mary Foss Starn and the long-lost egg

An incredible egg-sperience

A workplace prank led to a surprising connection. In 1951, Mary Foss Starn was packing egg cartons at an Iowa factory when she decided to scribble a note on an egg. "Whoever gets this egg, please write me," Starn wrote, adding her name and address. Years passed with no response, until John Amalfitano posted on social media about a strange, dried-out egg that he had received from a neighbor. Someone connected him with Starn, now age 92. "I finally have my pen pal," Starn said, "and it only took 72 years."



It was a feast for the eyes.

Slippery wrestlers get the gravy

Fans of the tasty topping for mashed potatoes might have had more than their fill when they gathered in the UK for this year's World Gravy Wrestling Championships. Hundreds of spectators came to watch competitors wrestle each other in two-minute matches inside a slimy, gravy-filled pool. "My opponent's eyes and ears were full of gravy, but we got through it," said Tommy Jupiter, one of the wrestlers. "The atmosphere was electric." Judges awarded points for competitors' wrestling skills as well as how entertaining the matches were.



Going (nowhere) for the gold

The easiest contest in the world

Seven people in the European country of Montenegro are competing to win \$1,070 and the title of "laziest citizen." The contest began as a joke about the belief that people from Montenegro are lazy. As *The Week Junior* went to press, contestants had been lying flat on mats for more than four weeks, shattering last year's record of about four days. Competitors can read and use technology but can't sit up or stand, except for bathroom breaks every eight hours. "All of us feel good," said contestant Dubravka Aksic. "They are pampering us. All we have to do is to remain lying down."

Real OR fake?



Was there a canine concerto?

Dogs perform with orchestra

Three new members of the Danish Chamber Orchestra unleashed their talents at a recent performance. Before playing Leopold Mozart's "Hunting Symphony," the orchestra introduced dogs named Cookie, Sophus, and Sica. Each talented pup had learned to play an instrument. Their dogged determination made them stars as one thumped the bass drum, another tapped out notes on a piano, and the third struck the gong. Is this story music to your ears, or does it give you paws?*

*Fake! Cookie, Sophus, and Sica went onstage, but they didn't play instruments. The composer wanted barking hounds to accompany "Hunting Symphony," so the dogs barked when the conductor gave the cue. Cookie's owner said the pup "had a blast."



Your turn

Editor's note

It was difficult for us to work on this week's story about the flooding in Libya (p2). Last week we reported on an earthquake in Morocco. If it's upsetting for us as journalists to think about the devastation caused by such massive natural disasters, we know it's hard for our readers too. I am grateful that the governments of other nations have offered to help Libya and Morocco and that international aid organizations are on the ground assisting people in both countries. In the "How to help" box on page 2, you can read about a few of the groups that have responded. (There is a similar box in last week's issue.) We include this information because we know that many families in the US want to pitch in. If you take action—such as by selling something you made to raise money to donate—we would love to hear about it. Send an email and a photo to hello@theweekjunior.com.



Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



412 Food Rescue

This organization works to decrease food waste. Its volunteers transport food from restaurants and grocery stores to nonprofits that feed people in need. Meals prepared using bulk donations are also delivered to the homes of people who are unable to visit food banks. Since its founding in 2015, the group has saved about 26 million pounds of food from being wasted and provided nearly 22 million meals. Find out more at 412foodrescue.org.



Advocating for plant-based food options

“I am a nature-loving vegetarian and enjoy exploring national parks. I am also a junior ranger to five national parks. Last year on our family trip to the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks, I was surprised to see how the parks' cafeteria menus were filled with meat-heavy options and very few plant-based foods. I had heard before that meat consumption is a big contributor to climate change and did further research on it. I wanted to do something about the problem, so my brother and I wrote letters to the

National Park Service, President Joe Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris, Senator Cory Booker (who is a vegan), and Greta Thunberg to see if they can help us



Anya, 10, California

accomplish this mission. I believe national parks can lead the way by providing more plant-based foods.”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
What is black and white and pink all over?
A zebra on its way to see Barbie

What makes your grandparents special?

Sofia—who is 10 years old and from Georgia—said she gets to do many fun things with her grandparents. A favorite memory is going to New York City with them and seeing Broadway shows. To celebrate your grandparent or any special older person, go to kidstheweekjunior.com/activities to print out a form (like the one at right). Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the responses in future issues.



THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I read about the Louvre in *The Week Junior* at the Louvre museum in Paris, France!"
Simon, 9, Massachusetts

"I made the overnight oats from Issue 177/178. It was super easy and delicious!" Abby, 11, Virginia



"There's nothing better than the sun, a tree, a brother, and *The Week Junior*! We love reading it!"
Tommy, 11, and Jack, 12, Texas

Teacher of the Week

Teacher's Name: **Mr. Johnson**
School: **Longfellow Elementary School**

"Mr. Johnson is an awesome teacher. He adds an element of humor into every science class while also keeping it serious and having everybody under control. He is so passionate about science and puts a lot of work into making fun experiments and extra activities.

Mr. Johnson is a devoted teacher and very fun. This is why I think he is an amazing teacher."

Annabelle, 10, Maine

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

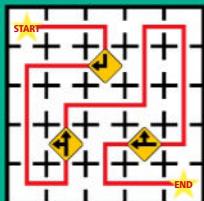
GETTY IMAGES ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

Word ladder
book
look
lock
lack
back
bark
barn
warn
warm
worm

Stepping stones
ravioli, lasagna



6				
31	+	3	=	34
9			÷	2
=				
15	×	3	=	45
				17



Quiz answers (from page 30) **1b** Nerf **2** "Rabbit reptiles" **3 b** Secretary of the treasury **4** True **5 b** Rebel **6** Rosh Hashanah **7** False. The Boston Americans won. **8 a** 1951 **9** United Arab Emirates **10 a** Atlanta Braves **11** True **12 b** Charleston, South Carolina **13** Chimp Haven **14** False. It began on September 15. **15 c** Gamma rays

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz of the week

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 Which of the following was a finalist for the National Toy Hall of Fame this year?

a) Monopoly b) Nerf c) Nintendo 64

a b c

2 Lagerpetids are a group of extinct creatures whose name means what?

3 Alexander Hamilton was the first person to hold what office in the US government?

a) Secretary of state

b) Secretary of the treasury

c) Vice president

a b c

4 True or false? Passion vine butterflies can learn and remember where their food is.

True False

5 Which of Robert Rodriguez's sons helped with the music for his new movie *Spy Kids: Armageddon*?

a) Racer b) Rebel c) Rogue

a b c

6 What holiday marks the start of the Jewish new year?

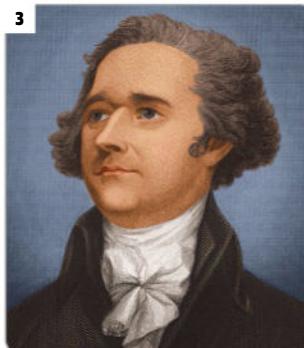
7 True or false? The Pittsburgh Pirates won the first-ever World Series in 1903.

True False

8 Mary Foss Starn recently received a reply to a note she wrote on an egg in what year?

a) 1951 b) 1961 c) 1971

a b c



ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

9 Sultan Al Neyadi is the first person from what country to conduct a spacewalk outside the International Space Station?

10 Which baseball team recently won its sixth straight National League East division title?

a) Atlanta Braves b) Miami Marlins

c) Philadelphia Phillies

a b c

11 True or false? Scientists are using DNA to estimate the age of polar bears in Alaska.

True False

12 The International African American Museum recently opened in what city?

a) Charlottesville, Virginia

b) Charleston, South Carolina

c) Savannah, Georgia

a b c

13 What is the name of the facility in Louisiana where staff are teaching chimpanzees to take shelter?

14 True or false? National Hispanic Heritage month began on September 1.

True False

15 In the book *Oliver's Great Big Universe*, a scientist gives Oliver's class a presentation on what topic?

a) Alpha rays b) Beta rays

c) Gamma rays

a b c

THE WEEK Junior

Editor-in-chief: Andrea Barbalich

Executive editor: Mindy Walker

Senior editors: Gail O'Connor, Jennifer Li Shotz

Features editor: Joey Bartolomeo

Senior research editor: Douglas Grant

Senior staff writer: Alisa Partlan

Staff writer: Felissa Allard

Associate editors: Brielle Diskin, Brandon Wiggins

Creative director: Dean Abatemarco

Production director: Paul Kramer

Senior art director: Victoria Beall

Photo editor: Nataki Hewling

Contributors: Stephanie Abramson, Lily Alt, Karen Cicero, Erica Clark, Stacy Cousino, Susie Dent, Truman Devitt, Dave Howard, Joy Howard, Jodi Levine, Ruth Margolis, Bari Nan Cohen Rothchild, Liz Callahan Schnabolk, Asha Sridhar, Jordan Zakarin
Senior VP: Sophie Wybrew-Bond
Managing director, news: Richard Campbell
Senior director, consumer marketing: Leslie Guarneri
Head of growth marketing: Colleen Shire Ho
Publisher: Stevie Lee (stevie.lee@futurenet.com)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Editor-in-chief, *The Week*: Theunis Bates
Digital director, *TheWeek.com*: Holden Frith

Reader submissions: hello@theweekjunior.com

Customer service: TW/custserv@cdsfulfillment.com

Editorial news: news@theweekjunior.com

New subscriptions: theweekjunior.com

© 2023. All rights reserved. *The Week* and *The Week Junior* are registered trademarks. Neither the whole of this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without the written permission of the publishers. *The Week Junior* (ISSN 2689-9027) is published weekly, except January 6, January 13, July 7, and September 15. *The Week Junior* is published by Future US LLC, 130 West 42nd Street, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.

New York, NY 10036. Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTERS: Send change of address to *The Week Junior*, PO Box 37595, Boone, IA 50037-7595.



Future plc is a public company quoted on the London Stock Exchange (symbol Future).
www.futureplc.com

Chief Executive Officer Jon Steinberg
Non-Executive Chairman Richard Huntingford
Chief Financial and Strategy Officer Penny Ladkin-Brand
Tel +44 (0)125 442 2444



**Save
66%**

Loved by kids. Trusted by adults. Enjoyed by all creatures.

Reading sparks a lifetime love of learning, gets kids on track for success, and helps them identify and follow their passions. There are stories in *The Week Junior* that speak to every child and inspire them to keep reading.

Give *The Week Junior* and save 66% off the cover price. For less than \$2 an issue, less than the cost of a full-size candy bar, your child can be inspired to read every week! Plus, if you subscribe today, your child will receive a **free puzzle book!**

**Order online at
theweekjunior.com/halloween**



**or scan to
subscribe**

THINK YOU CAN HANDLE . . .



 BASED ON THE
HIT PODCAST!

AVAILABLE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD.
Discover more at natgeokids.com.



THEN WE'VE GOT
THE BOOK FOR YOU!

Get ready for rollicking
retellings of classic Greek myths.

 NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC
KIDS